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GENERAL
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A sermon delivered by Rev. M. S. Shirk, before the Oxyria Baptist church and congregation Sabbath morning, Aug. 29, 1880. Published by request.

Flee as youthful lusts; but follow right, compass, faith, charity, peace with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.—1 Tim. 2:22.

These words are the language of the apostle Paul. But though the language is human it was dictated by the Spirit of God. The text was addressed directly to young Timothy, but it is recorded and stands here in God's Book for your admonition and mine, and God holds us as responsible individually for its observance as though by a special providence or an audible voice he had spoken to each one of us directly and personally.

I have selected it, because I know that many of you have recently put on Christ in his holy ordinance of baptism and many others of you are comparatively young Christians and I do hope that, aided by the spirit of God its development may serve to confirm you in the faith, to sustain you amid the perils of life and to protect you against the designs of an ungodly world and the machinations of the great enemy of souls.

Flee as youthful lusts. The world lust, as defined by the lexicons means—1st, longing desire, eagerness to possess or enjoy; 2nd, concupiscence, carnal appetite; 3rd, evil propensity, depraved affections and desires; 4th, vigor, active power, etc., etc. Its original and primary meaning, then, is longing desire, eagerness to possess or enjoy what is improper. In the text it does not indicate any particular sin, but that eager longing and desire for worldly pleasures, worldly gratifications and worldly acquisitions which the carnal mind delights in and pursues, even at the risk of God's displeasure and the sorrows of the finally damned. This is well explained by parallel passages, as e. g., Rom. 12:2. "Be not conformed to this world." etc. 1 John, 2:15-17. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him; for all that are in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world and the world passeth away and the lust thereof," etc. Matt. 6:32. "After all these things do the Gentiles—the worldly, the vain, the irreligious—seek. Be not ye therefore conformed unto them." Now—

1. The text admonishes us to flee lust. In whatever form, under whatever guise or by whatever instrumentality it may present itself, fly. Then you are not to be a participator in, not to be a looker on, not to feel friendly towards, not to apologize for, not to pity, not to tolerate—but flee the rosette and the pastimes of the ungodly.

But why this admonition? Why exclude ourselves from all the festivities and all the amusements of the world? Because there is danger in them. They are all so many snares of Satan. They are meant to beguile the unwary, to captivate the weak minded and to lead astray the thoughtless, prayerless, and lukewarm disciples of Christ. The Son of God had lived in this world. He knew its wickedness. He had been beset by its allurements, tempted, reproached, laughed at, ridiculed, scorned, slandered, persecuted as we are likely to be, if consistent Christians, and by means to guard us and protect us by those blessed and timely admonitions. He would not only put them in his Book as a law to in-

M. T. MARTIN, Publisher and Proprietor.

Integrity, and Fidelity to the Cause of Christ.

JACKSON, MISS., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1880.

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